

Alumni Columns

Magazine

Winter 2004

Northwestern State University of Louisiana

New residence
hall planned





Dr. Randall J. Webb, '65, '66

President
Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni:

The fall semester has been a good one for your alma mater as we continue to grow both in size and in academic reputation.

This semester, Northwestern had a record enrollment of 10,546, the fifth consecutive year of record enrollment. These consistent increases are no accident. Our faculty, staff and alumni, led by the Office of Enrollment Services, work extremely hard to identify good students and tell them about the positive experiences available at NSU.

Once those students enroll, they encounter a dedicated faculty committed to excellence in the classroom along with a caring staff that works to meet their needs.

Recently, Northwestern hosted the International Symposium on Interdisciplinary Science (ISIS). The keynote speaker was Nobel Laureate Dr. Murray Gell-Mann, who earned the Nobel Prize in physics in 1969. Scientists from around the world attended this conference and discussed how scientists in different fields could work together.

Hosting a gathering of this type gave prestige to Northwestern. Many of our students were also able to attend this conference and learn from leading scientists. We hope this event will lead to future grants and research opportunities for the university.

By next fall, we hope to have a new 380-bed residence hall on campus. The new facility will be between Iberville Hall and the Teacher Education Center and should encourage our students to live on campus. This new residence hall is part of a plan to improve campus housing over the next several years. There are more details on the residence hall in this edition of the Alumni Columns.

I am glad that so many of you were able to participate in Homecoming activities in October. Having a large number of alumni take the time to return to campus and visit old friends is gratifying. It was also an honor for me to be able to recognize this year's inductees into the Long Purple Line along with the recipients of the President's Distinguished Service Award, the Excellence in Teaching Award and those named to the Hall of Distinguished Educators. The selflessness and dedication to others shown by these individuals makes me proud to be associated with this fine university.

Dr. Chris Maggio, '85, '91
Director Alumni and Development

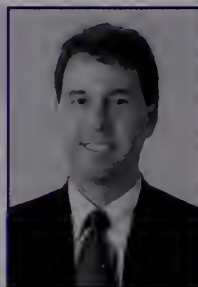
Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

This past October 14 – 16 we celebrated Homecoming 2004. For those who were able to attend, I think that you will agree that it was a magical weekend. The weather was beautiful, enthusiasm soared, school spirit permeated the atmosphere and much to the delight of the students, fans and alumni, we won the football game.

We reminisced about bygone times. The 1954 football team shared stories of gridiron victories, our retired faculty and staff visited about former students and issues during their times at NSU, and a sense of pride swelled in many as they viewed achievements and progress that the university has made.

Several areas of progress can be seen as you visit the campus. We are happy to announce that the completion of our Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center is just around the corner. This gem, located in the center of campus, will bolster student life tremendously. A new housing complex has just been approved by our Board and impending construction signals further progress.

These "bricks and mortar" projects, as well as the academic and technological advances at NSU, signify the great strides our university is making. These advances along with the For a Brighter Tomorrow Capital Campaign and continued student success will allow us to enjoy many more magical Homecomings like the one this past October....



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Cover: Renderings of the new dormitory are from the architectural drawings of BOKA Powell. Permission to copy was received from Century Development.

It is the policy of Northwestern State University of Louisiana not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment practices.

New residence hall planned; facility should keep more students on campus



Campus housing at Northwestern State University will take a major step forward next fall as the university has received approval from the Louisiana Board of Regents and Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to construct a 380-bed privatized residence hall on the Natchitoches campus.

The residence hall will be located behind Iberville Dining Hall near the Teacher Education Center and the Health and Human Performance Building. The facility should be ready for occupancy in time for the fall 2005 semester.

"This proposal is a major step toward improving campus housing at Northwestern," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "There is a need on the campus for more modern housing facilities that are attractive to prospective students and their parents."

Northwestern has selected Century Development Corporation of Houston to build and manage the residence hall. Century Development operates the University Columns Apartments on campus, which were constructed in 1994.

The complex will include a clubhouse/office, swimming pool and games area, Internet and cable connections, laundry facility and parking

lot. Each unit will include a kitchenette and small living area. The developer was requested to consider the historical architecture of the campus reflected in buildings such as Russell Hall, Warren Easton Hall and Caldwell Hall. A fire destroyed Caldwell Hall in the early 1980's.

"This development is important to recruiting and to retention of students," said NSU Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Dan Seymour, who has overseen the project. "We are eager to update our campus housing program, so there is an option for every level of student."

Seymour said the new facility would be a "modified residence hall," with 30 two-bedroom/two-bathroom units for four students and 126 two-bedroom/two-bathroom units for two students. The residence hall will have some features of an apartment, but will not include a full kitchen. Students who live in the facility will be required to purchase a campus meal plan. Residents will also not have to pay for utilities directly.

"I think the new residence hall is good for Northwestern," said Jamie Webb, a sophomore journalism major from Gretna. "It will be an excellent recruiting tool. For students already on campus, it shows that NSU is looking out for our interests."

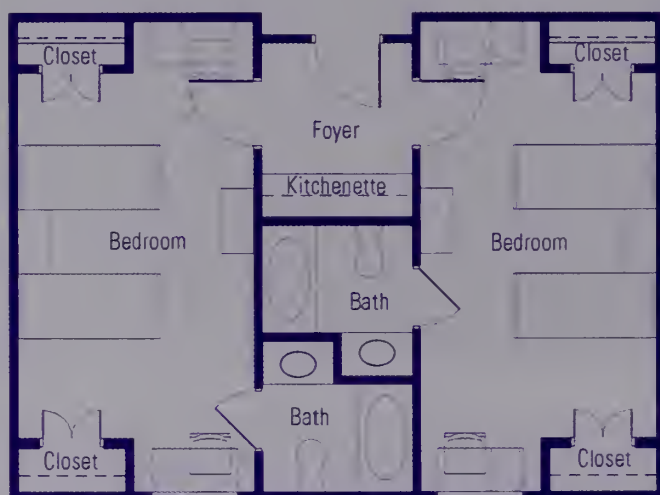
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New residence hall *continued from page 1.*

Northwestern has had on-campus housing for more than 100 years and was the first institution in the University of Louisiana System to introduce privatized housing in 1994 with the opening of the 512-bed University Columns.

"Having newer, better dormitories will encourage more students to live on campus," said Mandi Ridgdell, a freshman theatre major from Sorrento. "A new dorm will also have features that will make it safer for students."

According to Seymour, NSU began working with the national educational real estate consulting firm of Anderson-Stricker more than 18 months ago to help develop the project. Anderson-Stricker conducted a survey of student preferences and focus groups along with a market analysis to help the university make a decision. Six developers submitted proposals and made presentations to a university committee. The highest-scoring proposal by Century Development was selected.



"We believe we have developed a project that will be popular with the students," said Seymour. "The residence hall should have a unique look that will be appealing to go along the kind of amenities that students are asking for."

The new residence hall is the first phase of an overall plan to reconfigure NSU's campus housing, Seymour said. The second phase will involve a possible renovation or demolition of existing campus residence halls.

Webb commended Seymour and staff in the Division of Student Affairs for their work on the project. In addition, Jimmy Long, a member of Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, provided valuable insights as the project progressed, according to Webb.



Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center to be available to Alumni

The NSU WRAC (Wellness, Recreation, Activity Center) facility will open in the Spring 2005. NSU Alumni and their immediate families will be able to purchase memberships to the 84,000 sq. ft. facility and programs. The facility will have on staff a full-time wellness coordinator who will provide fitness testing, health & wellness seminars/classes, and a variety of group exercise classes.

The facility will house two large gymnasiums (4 basketball courts, volleyball, badminton), an indoor jogging/walking track, three racquetball courts, a 3000 sq. ft. free weight room, and a 2800 sq. ft. selectorized weight room. The 2800 sq. ft. cardio room will be equipped with a cardio theater with six television sets. A 2500 sq. ft. group exercise room, massage room, men's and women's shower/locker rooms, equipment service center, two game rooms, vending café, and administrative offices and meeting rooms will also be available. The facility will be open for more than 90 hours each week.

Memberships for Alumni will be available at the following prices:

Single: \$35/month if paid monthly
\$360/year if paid yearly (savings of \$60)

Single + Spouse: \$55/month if paid monthly
\$600/year if paid yearly (savings of \$60)

There is no charge for children of members (ages 8-18). However, there will be age restrictions in some areas of the facility. Children must secure a membership card at the NSU one card office and children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent when using the WRAC facility.

All NSU Alumni who were full-time students at NSU and paid the WRAC fee between January 1999 and December 2004 will be granted WRAC memberships at no cost for the same amount of semesters he or she paid the WRAC fee while a student here at NSU. Those alumni who wish to take advantage of this offer should do so at the WRAC facility between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For information on the WRAC, please call (318) 357-5269 or e-mail wrac@nsula.edu.



SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight is a new section of the Alumni Columns Magazine. We look forward to highlighting the achievements of alumni and friends of Northwestern. If you know someone who deserves their time in the Spotlight, please contact the NSU Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 or (888)799-6486. You can also contact the editor at andersonj@nsula.edu.

NSU Demon Dazzlers take over Jekyll Island



The Northwestern State University **Demon Dazzlers Danceline** attended the Universal Dance Association camp at Jekyll Island. By the camp's end, the Dazzlers took home four trophies: the first place Home Routine Award, the Leadership Award (voted on by the other teams), the Superior Award, and the second place Spirit Award. Each member also received two blue superior ribbons for the individual evaluations on routines learned during the camp. They will be raising funds this year to attend the Universal Dance Association National Competition in Orlando, Florida, this January.

Alumna authors book

Denise Lewis Patrick, 1977 graduate and Natchitoches native, has written a new book that celebrates summers in her hometown. The hardcover picture book, *Ma Dear's Old Green House*, was released by Just US Books, independent publisher of black-interest books for young people.

Alumni celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

Jack and Nell (Slack) Bice celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 14 at Cypress Baptist Church in Benton. Both are retired educators with the Bossier Parish School system. Jack (B.S. '56 & M.S. '62) retired as a coach, principal, and director of personnel and Nell (B.S. '72) retired as a business teacher and C.O.E. coordinator from Airline High School.

Alumna becomes East Tennessee State's Dean of Nursing

Dr. Patricia L. Smith, has been named Dean of Nursing at East Tennessee State University. Smith has been an registered nurse since 1964 and a nurse educator since 1970. She joined ETSU faculty in 1990, holds the rank of professor and served as department chair and associate dean for academic programs in the college before becoming interim dean.

Scholarship honoring alumnus begun

A scholarship honoring long-time trampoline coach and alumnus **Jeff Hennessy** was established by **Dr. George Drew**, one of his former students. Each year, the Jeff T. Hennessy Scholarship will be presented to an athlete pursuing a career in the field of medicine.

The scholarship was named the "Jeff T. Hennessy Scholarship" for his lifetime achievement in the sport of trampoline and tumbling, and in appreciation of his years of service as coach, mentor and educator.

Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame inducts NSU graduate

Dr. Jerry Payne, a graduate and band director at NSU, was recently inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the Louisiana Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2002.

Alumna recipient of State Choral Award

Carol Repulski Dahle, 1974 graduate, was the recipient of the 2004 Outstanding Middle Level Choir Director Award, given by the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association. The award recognizes middle level choral directors with a minimum of 10 years choral experience who exhibit characteristics usually associated with master teachers. It also recognizes significant contributions in the area of middle level conducting.

Since 1976, Dahle has been the Junior High/Middle School choral director in Hudson, Wis., where she has built a choral program of more than 300 students in three elective choirs. She has been music director for children and adult theater as well as church youth choirs and has completed her 18th year as director of the Trinity Lutheran Church Senior Choir in Hudson.



Lynn Seidl, President of the Wisconsin Choral Directors' Association, presented NSU alumna Carol J. (Repulski) Dahle the 2004 Outstanding Middle Level Choir Director Award also shown is Connie Root, presenter of the award.



NSU Alumni celebrate more than 50 years of friendship

In September of 1951, five young high school graduates enrolled at Northwestern at what was then Northwestern State College. They didn't become acquainted immediately, but time and association brought them together and bonded them in a friendship that has lasted for more than 50 years. They have kept in contact with letters, Christmas cards and phone calls, keeping one another informed of events in each other's lives.

"We are able to get together about once a year," said Alice West. "That's because of the distance. We enjoy being able to get together and share what we do with our lives."

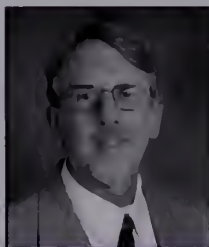
In August, the five friends gathered at the home of Jane Watson. The photos below show how they looked in their junior year at NSC in 1954 and how they look now. From right to left in both photos are Jane Bush Watson ('55), Alice Zenter West ('55), Virginia Houston Pace ('55), Nadine Ashley Marsee ('55) and Mickey Morrow Chaney ('54).



NSU Excellence in Teaching Awards

Six outstanding educators at Northwestern State University were recognized for their contributions to the university and their individual colleges as recipients of this year's NSU Excellence in Teaching Awards. The six honorees, who were selected by their peers, were honored at the annual Homecoming banquet Oct. 15 and recognized during half-time of the Homecoming game on Oct. 16.

The faculty and their respective colleges are Dr. Frasier Snowden, professor of philosophy, Louisiana Scholars' College; Dr. Lissa Pollacia, Bellsouth Professor of Telecommunications, College of Business; Dr. Kimberly W. McAlister, assistant professor of education, College of Education; Dr. Lisa Abney, associate professor of English, College of Liberal Arts; Teresa T. Kevil, assistant professor of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Nursing; and Dr. Dick Stalling, professor of biology, College of Science and Technology.



Dr. Frasier Snowden

Snowden has been teaching philosophy at Northwestern for 35 years. He began teaching in the Louisiana Scholars' College in 1989 after chairing the committee that developed the original proposal for the Scholars' College. He specializes in Eastern religious philosophies, philosophy and health care, American philosophy, philosophy of religions and the Great Books.

During his career, Snowden has been active on numerous university committees and regularly published articles and papers. He held memberships in Delta Phi Alpha, United Federation of College Teachers and Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Snowden previously received the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1994 and 2000. After teaching at NSU for 35 years, he plans to retire at the end of this academic year. His current work in progress is a philosophical mystery novel.



Dr. Lissa Pollacia

Pollacia has been the Endowed Bellsouth Professor of Telecommunications and a professor of computer information systems since 2000. She has been an instructor in the computer science field since 1983, when she was coordinator of the computer center on the NSU-Fort Polk campus. Pollacia designed and facilitated on-line computing courses for NSU and provided a leading role in training and policy development for electronic learning.

Pollacia has chaired several committees, authored numerous journal publications, participated regularly in conference proceedings and secured thousands of dollars in grants. She served as coordinator of NSU's NASA JOVE program from 1995-99, and in 1996, NSU awarded her the Mildred Hart Bailey Award for Outstanding Research.



Dr. Kimberly McAlister

McAlister has been an assistant professor in the College of Education since 1998. She has worked on numerous committees within the College of Education, including the Accreditation Leadership Team and Accreditation Steering Committee and chairing the Assessment Committee. She was a public school teacher from 1989-1998.

McAlister has made presentations at many professional development conferences on topics that include integrating curriculum with heritage education, teaching mathematics, improving student achievement, motivating students and integrating mathematics and science. McAlister has authored numerous professional development grants and has been closely involved with the development of the National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, acting as a evaluator of grants and a consultant for development workshops for teachers. She been advisor to more than 125 undergraduate elementary education students.

Recipients recognized



Dr. Lisa Abney

Abney is director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and an associate professor of English in the Department of Language and Communication. As director of the Louisiana Folklife Center since 1999, Abney is responsible for organizing, directing and promoting the Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival, archiving folklife material and coordinating community outreach. She writes grants to support the Folk Festival and oversees the budgets of the Louisiana Folklife Center, the Louisiana Regional

Folklife Program, Louisiana Folklife Journal, which she edits, and grant accounts.

As a professor, Abney has conducted research in linguistics, folklife and regional literature, written numerous grants to fund programs and research and served on several university and departmental committees. She has edited and contributed to several books on contemporary and Southern writing and published numerous articles related to folklife and American literature. Abney was this year's recipient of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Special Humanities Award and in 2003 was selected as one of "50 Dynamic Women under 50" by CenLa Focus Magazine.



Teresa T. Kevil

As coordinator for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, Kevil teaches and coordinates all clinical courses for the Family Nurse Practitioner program and the Advanced Health Assessment course. She also teaches several core nursing courses, adult nursing clinical courses and is academic advisor for graduate students. She is currently chairman of the Graduate Nursing Curriculum Committee.

Kevil has practiced nursing in several area medical centers since 1974 and since earning Post-

Master's Education in the Adult Nurse Practitioner Program has made numerous presentations and published nearly a dozen articles about nursing issues. She is currently a licensed Adult Nurse Practitioner, a Licensed Registered Nurse and a Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner. Kevil is a charter member of Beta Chi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International and holds membership in numerous professional organizations. She was the recipient of the F. Hugh Coughlin Endowed Professorship from 1999-2002. Kevil received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Nursing faculty in 2001.



Dr. Dick Stalling

Stalling has been teaching biological sciences since 1960 and has been at NSU since 1967. He was coordinator of the Department of Biology from 1996-2002 and has taught classes in many life science disciplines, including zoology, microbiology, physiology, mammalogy, ecology, anatomy, botany and biometry. He holds several professional and academic memberships in organizations including Louisiana Academy of Science, National Geographic Society, The Sierra Club and the Smithsonian

Institution.

Over the course of his career, Stalling has authored numerous publications and presented dozens of papers at professional meetings. For several years, he wrote book reviews for the Association of College and Research Libraries and at one time conducted drug tests for the NSU Athletic Department. Stalling's personal research interests include rodent and rabbit population and behavior, rodent physiology and anatomy and morphological adaptations of native plants.

McIlhenney Endowed Professorship established

The Northwestern State University Foundation received a \$60,000 donation from the Coypu Foundation that was matched with \$40,000 by the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund. The donation will establish the John S. McIlhenney Endowed Professorship in Biological Sciences, the first in that department.

The Coypu Foundation is an organization founded by the estate of the late John S. McIlhenney that supports environmental and ecology projects. Julie Hughes Callihan, executrix of the McIlhenney estate and a Natchitoches native, coordinated the donation. Coypu is the Latin term for nutria rat.

Mr. McIlhenney was a scientist and requested money be given to scientific endeavors, the environment, wetlands and ecological efforts, Callihan said.

A portion of the interest generated by the endowment each year will be used to fund classroom instruction, faculty research, purchase needed software and hardware and cover needed travel to professional conferences. Some of the funds will be used to build up the endowment and another portion will be used to establish a scholarship fund for biology students.

"It is my personal hope that this money will be used to encourage promising students identified in their freshman or sophomore year to pursue careers in the life sciences," said Dr. Michael Bodri, head of the Department of Biological Sciences.

"Gifts of this sort are valuable assets to the biology faculty because it can allow them to purchase supplies or equipment to assist in their current research endeavors or aid them in the pursuit of knowledge in research that may represent new directions for them," Bodri said. "Funds can also be used for professional development, covering expenses for such things as scientific or teaching conferences."

Further donations from the Coypu Foundation to Northwestern included a \$7,922 grant for population surveys using pitfall traps in the upland forest habitat of central Louisiana and \$16,911 to the Cane River National Heritage Area.

"We're always excited when we establish a professorship because it benefits not only our faculty and students, but the whole university," said Tony Gustwick, director of Institutional Advancement.

Gayle Hatch Scholarship created

A scholarship for the men's basketball program at Northwestern State University has been set up in honor of U.S. Olympic weightlifting coach and former Demon basketball letterman Gayle Hatch of Baton Rouge.

Donations for the scholarship will be matched by the Dale Brown Foundation up to half of the amount of a full scholarship to NSU. Brown, the former men's basketball coach at LSU, is a long-time friend of Hatch.

Hatch has been honored by Northwestern with induction into the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, in October. He is also a member of the Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame and has received the Nth degree in recognition of his professional accomplishments and community service.

"This has been a fabulous year for me and my family with the honor of coaching the U.S. Olympic Weightlifting Team, my induction into the Long Purple Line and the establishment of this scholarship. I was thrilled to death when this was announced," said Hatch. "Being a former Demon basketball player, I know how important it is for young men to have an opportunity to showcase their talent. This scholarship may give someone that opportunity to come in and establish themselves."

Hatch has been an active USA Weightlifting coach for more than 30 years. He has had athletes selected to more than 50 U.S. international teams including the 1984, 1988 and 1992 U.S. Olympic teams.

"Having Gayle Hatch's name associated with the men's basketball program at Northwestern is a very positive thing," said Demon head men's basketball coach Mike McConathy. "It shows how someone can be a part of the men's basketball program and go on to achieve success on a national or international level beyond the basketball court. Part of the way we measure success is if a young man can graduate and go out and be productive in the world. This scholarship will help young men achieve that objective."

McConathy also thanked Brown for his willingness to honor Hatch with a scholarship at NSU.

"We are gratified that Dale Brown thinks so much of Gayle that he is willing to provide an annual match for this scholarship," said McConathy. "It means a lot that Dale wants to do something to help Northwestern State because of his friendship and admiration for Gayle. We are also glad that Gayle will be able to play a role in helping build this scholarship."

Hatch has worked with NSU athletes over the years and is glad to have a closer association with the men's basketball program.

"There are many positive things going on at Northwestern, and I am glad to be associated with the program and Coach McConathy in this way," said Hatch. "He wants his players to get a degree and be prepared for life. Coach McConathy is a good coach and a good man."

To make a contribution to the Gayle Hatch Scholarship or receive more information, contact the NSU Foundation at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486.



At a banquet honoring Coach Hatch, keynote speaker Dale Brown pledged to start a scholarship at Northwestern State University in honor of Hatch, former NSU basketball player, and the ideals that he stands for. It will be a scholarship for a basketball player at NSU. Shown are Director of Alumni and Development Chris Maggio, Brown, Hatch and NSU Men's Basketball Coach Mike McConathy.

Record enrollment once again

Northwestern State University had its fifth consecutive record enrollment for the fall semester as 10,546 students enrolled for classes. Last fall's student population was 10,505.

"We are glad to have any increase in enrollment. That is a continued sign of the good things happening at Northwestern," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "Students respond to the personal attention they receive at Northwestern. Our student-oriented environment is combined with first-rate academics and varied extracurricular activities to give those who attend Northwestern a full college experience."

According to Webb, NSU's faculty, staff and alumni along with current students and the City of Natchitoches play a major role in attracting students. Under the direction of the Offices of Enrollment Services and University Recruiting, the university has seen its enrollment move up steadily.

"Northwestern has continued to prosper in a very competitive environment," said Webb. "Many colleges and universities are seeking outstanding students. When many of these students visit Northwestern for the first time, they immediately feel comfortable at the university and in Natchitoches. The people associated with the university and the community let each student know they are important and they are interested in the student's future success."

Enrollment on NSU's campuses in Shreveport, Leesville/Fort Polk and Alexandria campus increased. A total of 6,642 students took at least one class on the Natchitoches campus, 63 percent of the total student population.

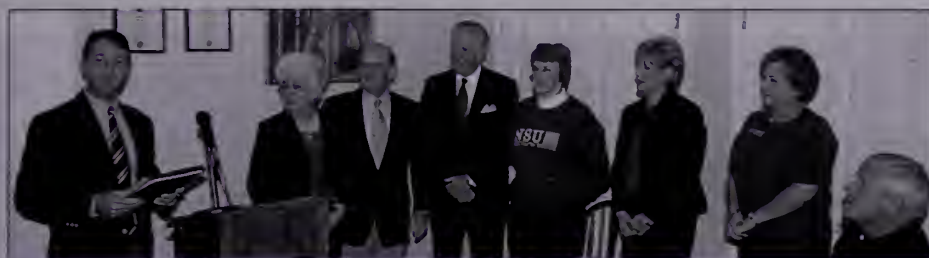
The university also enrolled more juniors and seniors, pointing to greater student retention.

"Over the past year, we involved the faculty in a 'recruit back plan,' which asked faculty to call students who were not enrolled," said Director of Enrollment Management Dr. Mary Edith Stacy. "This year, we will concentrate on strengthening academic advising. This should really help our students find the best match between their interests and a degree."

For the second consecutive year, NSU had a dramatic increase in out-of-state enrollment. After a 42 percent increase last year, 15 percent more students from outside Louisiana enrolled at Northwestern. This year, 159 out-of-state freshmen enrolled at NSU, a 38 percent increase from last fall.

According to Director of University Recruiting Jana Lucky, NSU's recruiting strategy is paying dividends.

"We are placing additional emphasis on recruiting graduate and out-of-state students along with transfer students from community colleges and junior colleges," said Lucky. "Each of our recruiters has a personal territory or area of emphasis which allows them to get to know students who are considering Northwestern."



Dr. Chris Maggio, director of alumni and development accepted the newly endowed Annie C. (O'Neal) Lynch Scholarship for Holy Cross Church and NSU. Shown are Maggio, Annie Lynch, Kevin Lynch, Dr. Randall Webb, Dean of Nursing Dr. Norann Planchock, Brenda Webb, Assistant Director of Development for the College of Nursing Alma Holloway, and Father Dan Cook, Pastor of Holy Cross Church.

Alumnus honors spouse with endowment

Northwestern State University alumnus Kevin Lynch has created the \$100,000 Annie C. (O'Neal) Lynch Endowment to the NSU Foundation. The two-part endowment will provide \$50,000 for the Annie C. (O'Neal) Lynch Scholarship in NSU's College of Nursing and \$50,000 to create the Annie C. (O'Neal) Lynch Fund for the Catholic Student Organization at Holy Cross Church.

The scholarship will provide for students enrolled in the College of Nursing who earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 after one semester of course work completed at NSU and participates in the Ministry of Education at Holy Cross.

Mrs. Lynch earned a degree in nursing at NSU in 1960, having been awarded a nursing scholarship in high school. She worked at Natchitoches Parish Hospital and for Dr. Archie Breazeale in Natchitoches while Mr. Lynch completed his senior year. The couple then moved 13 times in 33 years, first with the U.S. Army and later with Procter & Gamble.

"Annie has been my greatest blessing and my desire has been to honor her as a tribute to whatever have accomplished over the years," Mr. Lynch said. "Our relationship started and the groundwork for our family was nurtured by our time at Northwestern. Had it all not come together there, we might not be counting our four children and ten grandchildren among our greatest treasures."

"Mr. Lynch's generosity not only honors his wife, it will enable deserving students to enter a career of helping others," said Director of Alumni Affairs Chris Maggio. "The endowment to Holy Cross will ensure that a student leaves Northwestern equipped not just with knowledge, but with spiritual strength."

The gift to Holy Cross Church is the largest donation ever made to the 95-year-old church and will help underwrite costs of the Ministry of Education or other ministries of the Catholic Student Organization. The donation "will make a difference in the experience of students and a difference to Holy Cross Church," said Don Barker, chairman of the pastoral council for Holy Cross.

"Those standing against the storm across the nation are the campus ministries at state universities," said Father Dan Cook, pastor of Holy Cross and director of the CSO. "The

fact is, more than 90 percent of our Catholic students go to state universities and many attend campus ministries like the one of which I am director."

"Holy Cross Parish was an important spiritual home away from home for us as we participated in a number of the Catholic student activities and were thus affirmed in our Christian faith," Mr. Lynch said. "Even though we have relocated many times since leaving Northwestern, we stayed involved in church related activities. Now, I spend much of my time as president of the National Fellowship of Catholic Men, on a voluntary basis, while Annie supports that work and other ministries." The Lynches are active members of St. Gertrude Catholic Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Lynches were recognized during a ceremony at Holy Cross where Mr. Lynch, who graduated from NSU in 1961, stressed the importance of serving others and thanked people who helped him during his college experience, such as campus Librarian Eugene P. Watson and Dean Leonard Nichols.

"The Annie C. (O'Neal) Lynch endowment is our way of saying thank you by aiding the work of the Catholic Student Organization at Holy Cross Church and providing scholarship assistance for nursing students at Northwestern," Mr. Lynch said. "We hope it will encourage students in Northwestern State University's College of Nursing to participate in the Ministry of Education program so that the recipients are equipped to act out the Gospel message in their nursing careers."

The CSO honored the Lynches as Alumni of the Year, the first couple honored as such by the organization.

"We talked with Dr. Chris Maggio, Director of NSU Alumni and Development, and were delighted to learn that we could establish an endowment flexible enough to fund scholarships and program enhancements such as the Catholic Student Organization at NSU" Mr. Lynch said. "We hope that other NSU alumni will see this as an opportunity and consider a similar approach for program enhancements and scholarship areas they are interested in."

"It's because of people like the Lynches that students attending Northwestern can have a meaningful experience, both academically and in their faith," Maggio said.

New member added to NSU Alumni Board of Directors

Kip T. Patrick, a 1995 graduate of Northwestern State University, has been appointed to the NSU Alumni Board of Directors.

Patrick is a senior public relations specialist with Williams Creative Group in Shreveport. He began his career with Hill & Knowlton Public Relations Inc. in Washington, D.C. He later transferred to that company's New York, N.Y., office, where he specialized in corporate and crisis communications. He worked as



director of media relations for W-Technologies before accepting a position with Plus Idioms/Don Quixote Language School in Madrid, Spain, where he taught

English to business executives, professors and university students. Patrick returned last year to work with Hill & Knowlton as account supervisor in Miami, Fla.

A native of Converse, Patrick earned a degree in journalism and a minor in English at NSU, where he served as senator-at-large with the Student Government Association and was sports editor for the Current Sauce. He was a member off Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Eta Sigma honor fraternities.

Patrick has traveled extensively throughout Central and South America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States. He is a board member of Dynamite Basketball, a national youth organization that strives to improve the lives of inner city youth.

"I grew up in northwest Louisiana, and both my parents got their master's degrees from Northwestern, so I've always known what a degree from NSU can do for a person," Patrick said. "Joining the Alumni Board, I'm looking forward to working with my fellow alumni to help spread the word to kids who may be unaware of how far a Northwestern education can carry you."

"Northwestern is a quality place to earn a degree, a university where a person can have a great time, meet incredibly talented people, and with a little hard work, graduate with an education that's affordable, nationally-competitive, and most importantly, applicable in the real world."

Alumni Gatherings



More than 100 journalism majors visited with graduates of the Northwestern State University journalism program on Wednesday, Oct. 6 as part of a reunion of the classes of 1948-1964. Dr. John Merrill (center), now a professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, served as one of the first journalism faculty at Northwestern State College from 1951-1962. He was instrumental in establishing the degree program here. Participating in a televised forum that addressed past, present and future issues in journalism were (from left) Frank Caperton, Kay Flowers Wells, Jerry Byrd, Merrill, Jim Soileau, Norm Fletcher, and Dr. Paul Hagle. While on campus, President Dr. Randall J. Webb presented Merrill the "Nth Degree" for his meritorious contributions to the establishment of journalism as a degree program at Northwestern. Since the program's inception in 1948, over 700 have earned degrees in the program.

Lafayette Area Fish Fry



Kathleen Gillan ('99), Courtney Gillan Lentz ('02), Mark Lentz ('02) and Jeremy Chreene attended the Lafayette Area Fish Fry.



Ruth ('60) and Jeff ('58) Hennessy visit with other NSU alumni at the Lafayette Area Fish Fry.



Mary Alice Wack ('77 & '79), Charlotte Sicard ('77 & '78) Dwight Sicard and Mike Wack reunited with former classmates at the Lafayette Area Fish Fry.



NSU Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce (left) and Dr. Steve Horton, chair of the Department of Journalism (right), shared memories with Dr. John Merrill, now a professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia during a reunion of the journalism classes of 1948-1964 on Northwestern's campus Wednesday, Oct. 6. Merrill served as faculty adviser to the campus newspaper, Current Sauce, during his tenure at Northwestern from 1951-1962. Both Pierce and Horton were students of Merrill—Pierce at Northwestern, and Horton at Louisiana State University.



Heather ('98) and Chad ('95) Barrios visited with other Lafayette alumni.

Homecoming Events



Inducted into the Graduate "N" Club during Homecoming festivities were Norm Fletcher ('50), Kemp "Flash" Gordon ('59), Brian Brown ('89 & '90), Butch Ballard ('78), Billy Hudson ('48), and Dr. Jessie Horner ('72). Not shown is Theresa Thomas Lewis ('86).



The 1954 Football Team Reunited during Homecoming Weekend. Shown are (front) Dan Chase ('57), Coach Walter P. Ledet ('39), Ted Simon ('56), J. N. Bourgeois Jr. ('56), Jerry Epperson ('55), (back) Earl T. Haynes, Dr. Bobby Alost ('57), Robert "Bob" Tatum ('55), Dr. Mixon "Doc" Bankston ('56), and Dr. Dan Carr ('55 & '61).



Five Northwestern State University alumni were recognized as Distinguished Educators by the Northwestern State University College of Education. They are, from left, Dr. H.T. Garner of Monroe, Mary Lee Posey of Natchitoches, Ted Fowler representing father, the late Dr. L.F. Fowler; Chris Weaver of Baton Rouge and Dr. Charles F. "Red" Thomas of Natchitoches.



The Charter Induction Ceremony for the Columns Society was held as part of the annual Homecoming activities. The NSU Foundation has created The Columns Society to honor and recognize special supporters who make a planned gift to Northwestern. Membership is given to those who make or have made a planned gift of \$10,000 or more for future support of NSU. Among those honored were (front from left) Melba Steeg, Dr. Jim Hyde on behalf of his aunt, Nora B. Yeater, Clarice Creech and Harry Creech (back from left) Dr. Russell Bond, Joe Schelette, Charles Knically and Linda Knically. They are shown with NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. Also inducted were: Dr. John Bolin, Nolton Causey, Jack Eversull, Jr., Langdon Frey, Katherine Frey, John Kallina, Debbie Kallina, Karl Moore, Carolyn Sheridan and Oma Toppel.



Northwestern State University alumnus David Morgan was present for the opening of the Barry Smiley Memorial Courtyard outside Russell Hall during Homecoming festivities. Morgan described Smiley as a man of vision who inspired others to do more. The courtyard was made possible through a lead gift from the Morgan family and other alumni. From left are Dr. Jack Russell, Dr. Lissa Pollacia and Morgan.

Long Purple III Line

Even though their occupations are widely different, this year's inductees into Northwestern State University's Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, agree their time at the university helped lead to their success. The 2004 inductees are: Joseph Dow of Pasadena, Texas; Gayle Hatch and Lela Mae Wilkes of Baton Rouge, Val Marmillion of Washington, D.C.; Dr. J. Michael Miller of Dunwoody, Ga.; and Gregory O'Quin of Alexandria.



Joseph Dow

Dow, a native of Syria, started Dow Fence & Supply Company in 1964 with \$134 and has built the company into one of the largest wholesale companies in the south. Dow Fence & Supply ships materials around the U.S. as well as internationally.

A mathematics major at Northwestern, Dow moved to Houston after earning his degree and started his own fence and supply company.

Dow has become a successful real estate developer, building several subdivisions and business parks. He has been an active philanthropist, constructing a church in the small Syrian town where he was born. Dow contributes to several churches as well as charitable and youth organizations. He is a member of the Pasadena Planning and Zoning Committee.

"I never expected any kind of honor like this. It was nice of the university to do that," said Dow. "I learned everything at Northwestern. I majored in math and learned good common sense. That's enough for any business."



Gayle Hatch

Hatch is one of the most respected weightlifting coaches in the U.S. He was coach of the men's 2004 United States Olympic Team and has been an active USA Weightlifting coach for more than 30 years. Hatch has had athletes selected to more than 50 U.S. international teams including the 1984, 1988 and 1992 U.S. Olympic teams.

"I was overwhelmed to be selected to be part of the Long Purple Line," said Hatch. "Northwestern is the place where I met my wife and had a lot of great friends and teammates. Northwestern means the world to me."

"Northwestern was and is a place with a great atmosphere. I am glad I was able to take the education I received and go on to do something which had a positive impact on my community, the state and the country."

A basketball letterman at NSU, Hatch was named to the Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame and has been a recipient of the Nth Degree.



Val Marmillion

Marmillion is recognized as one of the top campaign strategists in the country. Under his leadership, the firm of Marmillion + Company has emerged as one of the nation's premiere marketing and communications firms.

Many of his campaigns have earned recognition for their groundbreaking work in bringing challenging issues to the public. Most recently, the 2003 Vision Awards Publicity Materials Competition from the League of American Communications Professionals honored MCo with Gold and Silver Awards for the "America's WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana." Marmillion has served as executive producer for numerous programs including several features developed for Discovery and The Learning Channel.

"I'm proud to think that recognition from your university means that you've done something very positive with your education. I owe any success in life to having experienced both academic and extra-curricular opportunities and incentives at NSU which helped to sculpt my career in both public service and business," said Marmillion. "I share this honor with many classmates and administrators who were not afraid of big dreams, like the Wilson Recreational Complex which we were able to imagine and create as a legacy for others to enjoy."

**Dr. J. Michael Miller**

Miller has been with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 1976 where he is currently chief of the Laboratory Response Branch in the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program at CDC. He is responsible for the Nation's laboratory readiness and response capability for bioterrorism or other public health emergencies. Dr. Miller completed his bachelors and master's degree in microbiology at Northwestern and completed his graduate work in 1977 at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He is a Vietnam-era veteran.

"I was stunned when I learned I had been chosen for the Long Purple Line," said Miller. "I knew what the honor was all about and was touched and honored to be chosen."

In his position at the CDC, he oversees the National Laboratory Response Network—the LRN— a consortium of the nation's reference laboratories for the detection and confirmation of agents of bioterrorism.

The Rapid Response and Advanced Technology laboratory is also in his Branch and it develops and provides the initial, novel molecular testing protocols and algorithms used in the LRN and serves as the initial receiving site for any bioterrorism-related specimens arriving at CDC.

**Gregory O'Quin**

O'Quin has been a registered representative with Lincoln Financial Advisors since 1978, ranking as the leading producer in Louisiana and in the top one percent with the company. He is a member of the NSU Foundation Board. O'Quin has also served as chairman of the Rapides Regional Medical Center and chairman of the Rapides Foundation and the Orchard Foundation.

A 1973 graduate of NSU in accounting, O'Quin was freshman and sophomore class president and president of the Student Senate for two years.

He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and was chosen as Mr. NSU. O'Quin became a CPA in 1974 and earned a law degree at Loyola University of New Orleans in 1978.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the university that was such a big part of my life," said O'Quin. "As an investment advisor I use skills learned at Northwestern every day in my business life. I received a great education that has helped me do well in the business world. The contacts that I made at Northwestern and Natchitoches have also been very helpful to me. I am very interested in NSU's continued success."

**Lela Mae Wilkes**

Wilkes has been president of Brown-Eagle Group since 1989. The company employs 500 and provides product handling, packaging and warehousing services for the chemical industry. She is a founding member, past secretary and a member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance. Wilkes joined Brown-Eagle Group in 1977 as controller and treasurer and was promoted to vice president in 1985.

Wilkes began her career as an accountant with the Ethyl Corporation. She is a member of the NSU College of Business Dean's Advisory Board and the College's Hall of Fame. Wilkes is also active in a number of civic and business organizations.

"To me, this honor is like the icing on the cake," said Wilkes.

"The happiest four years of my life were at Northwestern. It is indescribable. The experience was so wonderful there. It was small enough that you could know everyone, but large enough that you could participate in a number of things."

While at Northwestern, she was a member of student organizations including Purple Jackets, Associated Women Students and Alpha Sigma Alpha. Wilkes was also elected treasurer of the Louisiana Student Teachers Association.

NSU Alumna Jennifer Graf named new Lady Demon Basketball Coach

Northwestern State's James Smith, the winningest women's basketball coach in Southland Conference history, announced his retirement Sept. 1 and Assistant Coach Jennifer Graf, a former Lady Demon player who has been part of SLC championship teams as a player and coach, was named to replace him as head coach.

Smith, 340-155 (.687) in 17 seasons as head coach, guided the Lady Demons to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances, in 1989 and last season, along with capturing three regular-season conference titles. Northwestern State posted wins over national powers such as Notre Dame, Arkansas, Iowa, Clemson and Ole Miss under Smith, whose teams also made three appearances in the Women's National Invitational Tournament and suffered only one losing season in his 17 years in charge.

Smith's Lady Demons made 10 SLC Tournament championship game appearances and produced four NCAA Division I statistical champions while making 14 entries in the NCAA women's basketball record book, including the national record for assists in one game (43) in a 1987 rout of Arkansas Baptist.

Graf's elevation to the head coaching post means five current Division I head coaches — Mona Martin at Louisiana-Monroe, Wendy Schuller of Eastern Washington, Southern University's Sandy Pugh and Gail Streigler of Central Florida — served as assistant coaches under Smith with the Lady Demons.

A native of Loranger, La., the 26-year-old Graf has been an assistant coach on Smith's staff for four years on the heels of a four-year playing career for Northwestern.

The Lady Demons have posted 150 wins in her eight seasons on campus after she won Sweet 16 prep state tournament Most Valuable Player honors for all classifications in 1996 while leading Loranger High to the state Class 2A title. She will be the second-youngest head coach in major college women's basketball.

The announcement of the transition was made by university President Dr. Randall J. Webb and Director of Athletics Greg Burke at a press conference at NSU's Stroud Room.

"I appreciate James Smith as having played an integral part in the program which has had the most sustained level of success in over a century of intercollegiate athletics at NSU," said Burke. "As much as this (Smith's retirement) was not my idea, I am happy for James in his decision and wish him all the best that he and (his wife) Susan truly deserve."

Since Graf joined the program, the Lady Demons have been one of the nation's top 30 winningest programs in women's basketball over the previous six years. In her four seasons as the chief assistant coach, Northwestern was 86-32 (.729), including a 63-15 (.808) mark in conference play.

"As an assistant coach, Jennifer has established herself as a shrewd tactician, an outstanding recruiter and a wonderful mentor for the young ladies involved in the Lady Demon basketball program," said President Webb. "The fact that she is Coach Smith's choice to follow him as head coach is a tremendous endorsement of her ability to lead our program for years to come. This is a move that will be widely applauded in all areas of the Northwestern community as Coach Graf has earned the respect of all groups related to the university — students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters."

Graf was a Dean's List student, a three-time Academic All-SLC student-athlete and an honorable mention All-SLC athlete as a senior in 1999-2000. She played in 110 games for Northwestern, winning 74, starting 48, including all 30 in her final

season when she averaged 10.4 points per game and raised her free throw percentage 22 points above her career average, posting the second-best single-season free throw average in school history, 84.7 percent.



Coach Jennifer Graf



Jennifer Graf and James Smith consult during an NSU women's basketball game.

Demon Fans Can Receive Updated Information Via E-mail

The Southland Conference will initiate distribution of a new monthly e-newsletter. The e-newsletter will provide dedicated fans of the league the latest information on the Southland and its institutions. Media, boosters, alumni, students and faculty are invited to subscribe.

"The Conference is not interested in sending information to individuals who do not want it," according to Tom Burnett, commissioner of the Southland Conference. "We are not sending 'spam' and we are not selling the lists to outside agencies. The newsletter has an 'opt-in, opt-out' feature that allows subscribers to eliminate any future mailings."

The project is being coordinated by Kristie Le, director of media relations for the Southland Conference.

Anyone interested in joining the e-mail list can do so by e-mailing Le at kle@southland.org or visiting the conference website at www.southland.org.

President's Distinguished Service Award recipients honored

Jimmy D. Long of Natchitoches and the late Sen. Leopold Caspari, formerly of Natchitoches, have been selected as the 2004 recipients of the President's Distinguished Service Award at Northwestern State University.

"I am extremely honored to recognize both of these exceptional men," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "Each of them played a significant role in the growth and development of Northwestern State University. Sen. Caspari and Rep. Long both understood the importance of education to the state of Louisiana. They also set an example by giving of themselves through public service."

Long was a member of the Louisiana Legislature for 32 years serving in the House of Representatives from 1968-2000. In his eight terms in the legislature, Long became recognized as one of the leading authorities on education in the South.

He worked to establish the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts and the Louisiana Scholars' College, the state's designated honors college in the arts and sciences. Long assisted Northwestern in developing progressive, innovative programs and was instrumental in the appropriations of millions of dollars for programs and projects at the university.

Long has served as a member of the Board of the Southern Regional Education, vice president of the Southwest Education Development Lab and as the Louisiana delegate to the Education Commission of the States.

During his tenure in the legislature, Long was cited by the state's press corps as being among the top 10 percent of Louisiana legislators in effectiveness. He has been a

member of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors and has received honorary memberships in the Blue Key International Honor Society and Graduate "N" Club. A government major at Northwestern, he was inducted into the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line in 1993.

Long has been a member of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System since 2001.

Caspari, who was called "The Father of the Normal," was instrumental in the founding of the Louisiana State Normal School, now Northwestern State, and its placement in Natchitoches.

A native of France, Caspari immigrated to the United States in 1848 and settled in Cloutierville. He became a successful farmer and businessman and moved to Natchitoches in 1858.

In 1884, Caspari was elected to the Louisiana Legislature as a state representative from the district including Natchitoches, DeSoto and Sabine parishes. He was later elected to the State Senate, spending nearly 30 years in the legislature. In his first year in the legislature, Caspari was a strong supporter of legislation creating the Louisiana State Normal School. He later made a strong presentation to the State Board of Education to convince them to place the school in Natchitoches.

Caspari helped lead a drive to raise \$5,000 to purchase The Convent of the Sacred Heart, a 95-acre site that made up the early Normal School campus. As president of the Natchitoches Land and Railway Company, Caspari helped gain a railway connection to Natchitoches, which made the Normal School accessible to students from throughout Louisiana.

Caspari died in 1915. Caspari Hall and Caspari Street, which runs through NSU's campus, are named for him.



Jimmy D. Long of Natchitoches and the late Sen. Leopold Caspari, formerly of Natchitoches, have been selected as the 2004 recipients of the President's Distinguished Service Award at Northwestern State University.



Great-grandson Kerlin Sutton accepted the President's Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Caspari.



Alumni Updates

Ken Moran

It all started with what Ken Moran thought just might be a crazy dream and sheer determination, but Moran now knows that

chasing dreams can lead to successful businesses.

After graduating from Northwestern, Moran could not find his heart in any of the available jobs, and while looking in the local newspaper for work, the idea of recycling old newspapers came to mind. From there came the idea to recycle cardboard boxes.

"It was a lucky break, but I worked hard and it grew from there," said Moran.

His paper recycling business now covers all of Louisiana and Mississippi, and portions of Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas. He expanded from newspapers to include all types of paper, even cardboard boxes. Recycling Services Inc.'s largest customer is Wal-Mart, whose account they have had for 23 years.

Moran, a 1963 graduate in business administration, owns Recycling Services, Inc., which is actually five companies that also include RSI Mills, Ken Moran Trucking Co., Inc., Pac-Mor Manufacturing and Mid-State Construction Company. Each individual business drives the others, making the entire operation self-sufficient. He employs more than 180 people.

What is his business philosophy?

"Time heals everything from broken hearts to bad business deals," Moran said.

Moran treats his employees like family, doling out hugs and handshakes everyday.

"I try to find and hire the best, pay as much as I can and let them manage," Moran said. "Give your employees responsibility, but don't put so much on them that they can't handle it."

Moran has recently added to his collection of businesses by buying the Cowboy Town complex just north of Alexandria. He is in the process of deciding how best to use his new facility.

Moran, a Natchitoches native, said he was influenced by Northwestern all of his life.

"When you are in atmospheres like Natchitoches you can learn a lot. The college made a great impression on my life and played a major part in shaping my mind."

Moran is a former Demon basketball player and generously donates to the NSU Athletic Association.



1944

Dorothy D. DeLoache Barnard is retired and lives in Shreveport.

1950

Antoinette "Toni" Provenzano Pertuit is retired and lives in Harrisburg, NC.

1957

Mifanwy Brister Hart is a retired teacher, married and lives in Lake Charles.

1960

Howard E. Monk is retired, married and lives in Leesville.

Doris Marie Richard Roberts is retired, married to Thurman Alvin "T.A." Roberts ('62) and lives in Grayson.

Patrick Vidrine is a retired instrumental music teacher and is working part-time for the City of Patterson Fire Department Maintenance.

Thurman Alvin "T.A." Roberts is retired, married to Doris Richard Roberts ('62) and lives in Grayson.

1967

Eleanor Ann Lee Alford is an assistant superintendent for Bossier Parish School Board, married and lives in Benton.

1968

Thomas Collier Williams is Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at Bossier Parish Community College, married and lives in Shreveport.

1969

Steven M. Haynie is a professor of kinesiology at The College of William & Mary, married and lives in Williamsburg, Va.

1972

Anne Cifreo Landry is the director/owner of Ascension Prep School, married and lives in Prairieville.

Dr. Bonnie Blu Williams is an associate professor at Mississippi College and lives in Clinton, Miss.

Wanda M. Chicola Ozier is the regional vice president for Volunteers of America North Louisiana and lives in Pineville.

1973

Mary Elizabeth Huntington Meyers is a registered nurse, married and lives in Kenner.

1975

Melissa M. Muse Trammell is employed by Winn Parish School Board as a special education supervisor and lives in Campti.

Ila Fay Ahearn is a registered staff nurse at Kaiser Foundation Hospital and lives in Hercules, Calif.

1976

Barbara Gayle Hubbard McGill is the director/compliance for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and lives in Metairie.

1977

Larry Lambert is a senior vice president and general manager of the west coast operations for Kumon Math and Reading. He is married and lives in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Dr. Kerry Hill is a teacher at Zachary High School and lives in Jackson.

1979

William Trusty is employed by the department of defense at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant as a manager of demilitarization receiving inspection. He is married and lives in Mediapolis, Iowa.

1980

Jack Corwin is a purchasing manager for Lippert Components and lives in Wakarusa, Ind.

Dana Renee English Thigpen is a child welfare specialist III at Desoto Parish O.C.S. married and lives in Mansfield.

1981

Chris John Soileau is a health teacher at Walker High School, married and lives in Denham Springs.

1982

Jacqueline Reed Horton is an early childhood adult literacy state coordinator at Louisiana Technical College, married and lives in Natchitoches.

1983

Sara Lanell Peace Ebarb is employed by Caddo Parish School Board as an elementary school director, married and lives in Shreveport.

1984

Chirre Kraatz Keckler is a forest biologist at Carson National Forest, married and lives in Quest, N.M.

1985

Laura Nevling is a senior staff accountant for Urban Retail Properties and lives in Lisle, Ill.

1988

Gina Cannon Birdsong is employed by the Red River Parish School Board as a social worker, married and lives in Coushatta.

1989

Stephon Kirk is a manufacturing tech for Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Company, married and lives in Alexandria.

Susan Brumfield Gibson is a family and consumer science teacher at Norman Junior High School in Crossett, Ark.

1991

Peter Radicello is the president of Lava Communications and lives in Dallas, Texas.

1992

Julie Roy Longlois is an agent for Farm Bureau Insurance, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Lisa Williams Deen is a business teacher and technology assistant at Sacred Heart High School and lives in Ville Platte.

1993

Andre James Simon is the director of music at First Baptist Church, married and lives in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Dr. Kelly Paulk Ray is a psychologist at Drusilla Clinic and also co-authored a workbook published by New Harbinger Publications entitled "Helping Your Angry Child." He lives in Baton Rouge.

1994

Maria Elena Rachal Theriot is a program specialist for Volunteers of America, married and lives in Cloutierville.

Anne A. Giffin is employed by Calcasieu Parish School Board as a kindergarten teacher and lives in Westlake.

Glen Fox is currently serving on active duty in the Army National Guard.

Valerie Ann Chesne Lambing is a non-categorical pre-school teacher for Rapides Parish School Board, married and lives in Deville.

Melissa Louviere Domingue is a stay at home mom, married and lives in Youngsville.

1995

Stephen Smith is the rehab director and occupational therapist at Daybreak Therapy Service, married and lives in Commerce, Texas.

Debi Cost is an account manager for Pro Pacific Corp Creative Merchandising and lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Robin Dawn Laprarie Griffin is a seventh grade teacher at Tioga Junior High School, married and lives in Pineville.

1996

Jennifer Diane Webb Bridgewater is a title one math teacher at Spring Meadows Elementary in San Antonio, married and lives in Schertz, Texas.

Michael Shane Miller is an environmental scientist for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, married to Elizabeth Dawn Miller ('98) and lives in Lafayette.

1997

Dawn McCarroll is an accounts receivable administrator for Associated Office Systems and lives in Chalmette.

Megan Michelle Hill Kitchin is currently a student, married and lives in Dublin, Ohio.

1998

Antoinette Rochelle Bell Fisher is a customer service representative for Federal Express, married and lives in Missouri City, Texas.

Carson Thomas is an account executive for Countrywide Home Loans, married and lives in Frisco, Texas.

Synthia Michelle Doaks is employed at Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. as a mutual fund trader and lives in Milwaukee, Wis.

Daryl Laine Coleman is an area manager for Medtronic Xomed and lives in Shreveport.

Dr. Andrew Hebert is a postdoctoral research scientist at the University of Hawaii, married and lives in Honolulu, Hawaii.

1999

Kelley Henderson is an assistant athletic trainer at the University of West Florida and lives in Pensacola, Fla.

Eric Jason Delaune is a database administrator at Tulane University, married to Susan Bramlett ('98) and lives in Slidell.

Shante Jones Lacour is an accountant at Ikon Office Solutions, married and lives in Spring, Texas.

Greg Romero is a graduate assistant at the University of Texas at Austin. He was awarded the James A. Michener Fellowship and the Jean McKenzie Scholarship in playwriting. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Kenneth LeBaron is a project manager for Dresser Flow Solutions and lives in Pineville.

2000

Ryan Dugas is a marketing coordinator for Gentry Group, married to Emma Federwisch Dugas ('00) and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Leigh Anne Price-Harrison is a software engineer for SAIC (Science Applications International Corp) and lives in Ashburn, Va.

Stacey Frederick is a program manager for Volunteers of America and lives in Winnfield.

Emma Federwisch Dugas is a client development team leader for Viscern Ketchum Fundraising Consulting Firm, married to Ryan Dugas ('00) and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Yonna Shawne Frost Pasch is the assistant director of greek life at NSU, married to Alan Pasch ('01) and lives in Natchitoches.

Paton Caroline Perry is a real estate agent for Oakwood Baton Rouge La. Property Management and lives in Pineville.

2001

Danielle Mitchell is a communications coordinator for Daktronics, Inc. and lives in Houston, Texas.

Jack Givens is a workforce administrator for Cox Communications and lives in Baton Rouge.

Alicia Christine Urven is an assistant to a psychologist III, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Jamie DeAnna Murray McGowan is a sales representative for Yellow Book USA, married to Joseph McGowan ('01) and lives in Ripley, Tenn.

Joseph McGowan is a refuge manager for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, married to Jamie DeAnna Murray McGowan ('01) and lives in Ripley, Tenn.

Megan Nicole Black Prosser is a stay-at-home mom, married and lives in Aspen, Colo.

2002

Tessia Norris Price is an account executive for Clear Channel Radio and lives in Deville.

Lori Ann Miller works in public relations for Gates McVey and lives in Bonita Springs, Fla.

2003

Joseph Rawley is a news producer for KPLC-TV and lives in Lake Charles.

Kira J. Gervais Mares is a purchasing and marketing coordinator for Imperial Trading Company, married to Dustin Mares ('04) and lives in Kenner.

Russell C. Easley is employed at M.H. Easley & Associates LLC as a staff accountant, married and lives in Woodworth.

Farrah Michae Lasyone is an accounting supervisor at Harrah's Louisiana Downs and lives in Bossier City.

Martina Christa Schneider Burkett is an accountant for Alliance of Professionals & Consultants, Inc. and lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Christopher Wayne Choate is an investment representative for Edward Jones Investments, married to Rebecca Kay Kaiser Choate ('03) and lives in Greenwell Springs.

Dustin L. Matthews is a loan officer for First Federal Mortgage and lives in Alexandria.

Shea Marette Ladoux is a clinical research coordinator for Lake Charles Medical and Surgical Clinic and lives in Sulphur.

Rebecca Kay Kaiser Choate is a manager at Mervyns Department Store, married to Christopher Choate ('03) and lives in Greenwell Springs

2004

Mandi Johnson is a library specialist at NSU Watson Library and lives in Natchitoches.

In Memory

Ida Ragan Weldon,
September 12, 2003

*40 Wilma LeGrende Galt,
October 17, 2003

*41 Parker Wiggins,
October 3, 2004

*47 Margie Seegers,
December 20, 2003

*48 Gerald Watkins,
July 13, 2004

*48 Virginia Winn
Watkins, *July 28, 2004*

*54 Pat Todd,
November 7, 2004

Alumnus Williamson & WillStaff Worldwide partner with NSU Alumni Association

Wayne Williamson, CPC, CTS, president of WillStaff Worldwide, recently met with NSU President Dr. Randy Webb and Director of Alumni and Development, Dr. Chris Maggio to discuss a proposal to raise money for the Alumni Association. Williamson has agreed to donate a percentage of the company's sales to the Northwestern State University Alumni Association based on the use by companies where Northwestern State University Alumni are in a position of choosing a staffing service.



"I am pleased that we are able to make the most of this opportunity," says Williamson. "Universities like Northwestern are vital to their communities, the economy and future job growth throughout the state. We are proud to support them however possible."

WillStaff Worldwide is a regional staffing firm that specializes in providing national and local career placement, temporary, temp-to-hire and on-site staffing services throughout the country. In business since 1968, WillStaff currently has 47 offices in 13 states including two national search offices in Monroe, Louisiana.

Dr. Maggio noted, "Endeavors such as these are vital to the success of Northwestern's first ever major fund raising campaign."

The donations will be based on new business generated after September 1, 2004. The proposal applies to the use of any of WillStaff's services and the donations will be made in the name of the client company or Northwestern alumnus. The program will be tested in the Shreveport, Louisiana, market first to ensure that all tracking and crediting procedures are in place before the program is rolled out in other markets.

Williamson graduated from Northwestern in 1961. He later earned his MBA from Pepperdine University. The founder of WillStaff Worldwide, Williamson currently serves as president of the company. Williamson was a finalist for the Louisiana/Mississippi Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2000 and won the Blue Chip Enterprise Award in 2000.

LOOKING BACK

Nothing says "school spirit" around Northwestern State University than "Vic" the Demon, the school's mascot. However, Vic hasn't been around as long as NSU. He was brought about in 1922, thanks to President V. L. Roy's and Coach Lee Prather's determination to build the then Normal's spirit for its athletic endeavors.

The decision to use a demon was determined by a contest among college students. A \$10 prize encouraged a response so great, that the original selection committee decided to have the students vote. The final choice was a demon, which won over the other selection of "braves."

Our mascot's name, "Vic", short for victory, did not come about until 1984. The athletic department held a contest, and awarded NSU alumnus Ray Carney ('67 & '69) with an all-expense paid trip to the State Fair Game.



The Demon taken from the 1924 Potpourri



Vic, the Demon, today



Guess Who?

Can you guess the names of these 1975-76 SUGB officers? If so, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. The first five people to call with the correct answers will win a prize!

Winner's for the Fall 2004 Alumni Columns Looking Back Section—Wayne Van:

Congratulations to the following people who guessed that Wayne Van was the football player in the Fall "Guess Who?" Contest.

Charles James
Bossier City

Perry Anderson—'85
Athens

Rodney Fulton—'91
Many

Marion Harrison
Montgomery

Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date _____ SSN: _____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) _____
Please Circle Last First Middle Maiden

Current address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NSU undergraduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

NSU graduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

During which years did you attend NSU? _____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? _____

Place of employment _____

Job title: _____ Work phone: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

Director of University Recruiting
Northwestern
State University
South Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-4503
800-327-1903

Director of Financial Aid
Northwestern
State University
Room 109, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5961

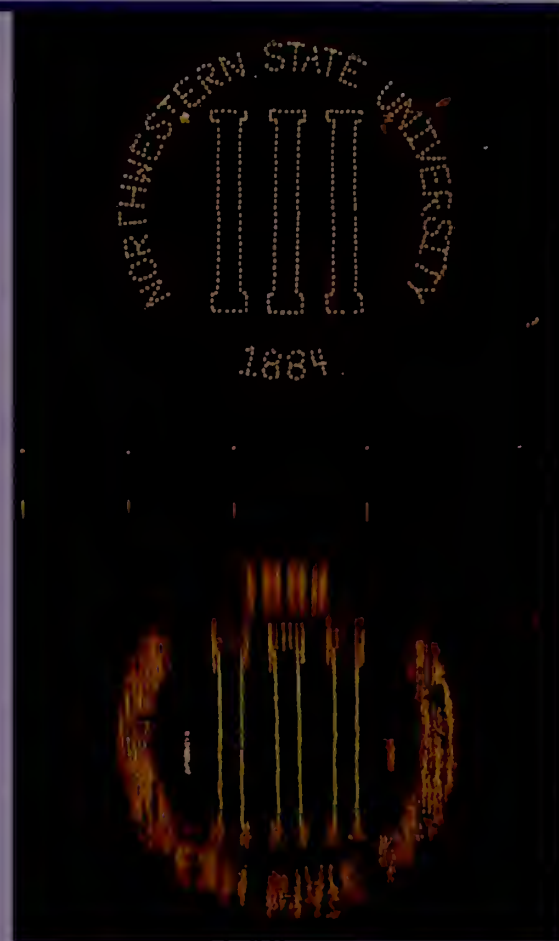
Athletic Director
Northwestern
State University
Room 101C
Athletic Fieldhouse
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5251



NSU Professor artisan of Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster

A design by artist Michael Yankowski, professor of art, has been chosen for the 25th commemorative Natchitoches Christmas Festival poster. The poster, entitled "Cane River Carolers," is a whimsical depiction of Christmas in Natchitoches with some widely recognized local characters.

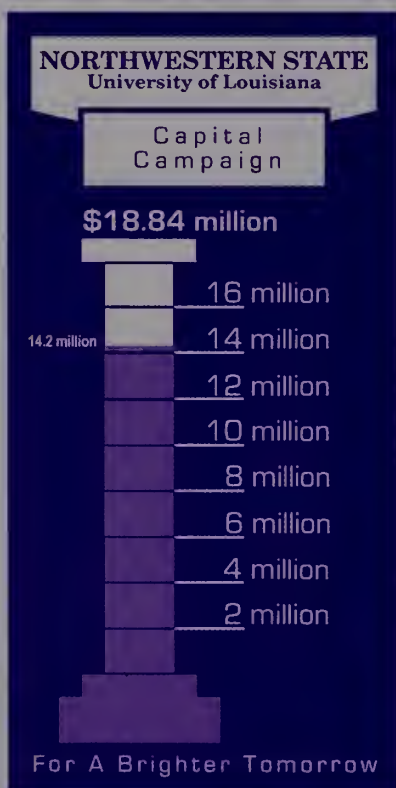
Yankowski's work is already familiar to those who collect Festival posters. He designed the highly popular 1993 Christmas Festival poster entitled "Twilight Visitor," that depicts an image of Santa Claus visiting Natchitoches.



The City of Natchitoches has set up several new light displays on the riverbank this year, including this tribute to Northwestern.

Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002

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As of November, more than \$14.2 million has been raised toward the \$18.84 million For a Brighter Tomorrow Capital Campaign Goal. For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486.

Alumni Office